

INSTRUCTION NO. ____

There are rules you must follow when you go to the jury room to deliberate and return with your verdict.

First, you will select a foreperson. That person will preside over your discussions and speak for you here in court.

Second, it is your duty, as jurors, to discuss this case with one another in the jury room. You should try to reach agreement, if you can do this without going against what you believe to be the truth, because all jurors have to agree on the verdict.

Each of you must come to your own decision, but only after you have considered all the evidence, discussed the evidence fully with your fellow jurors, and listened to the views of your fellow jurors.

Do not be afraid to change your mind if the discussion persuades you that you should. But, do not come to a decision just because other jurors think it is right, or just to reach a verdict. Remember you are not for or against any party. You are judges – judges of the facts. Your only job is to study the evidence and decide what is true.

Third, if you need to communicate with me during your deliberations, send me a note signed by one or more of you. Give the note to the marshal or bailiff and I will answer you as soon as I can, either in writing or here in court. While you are deliberating, do not tell anyone – including me – how many jurors are voting for any side.

Fourth, your verdict has to be based only on the evidence and on the law that I have given to you in my instructions. Nothing I have said or done was meant to suggest what I think your verdict should be. The verdict is entirely up to you.

Finally, the verdict form is your written decision in this case. You will take these forms to the jury room, and when you have all agreed on the verdicts, your foreperson will fill in the

forms, sign and date them, and tell the marshal or bailiff that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

Eighth Circuit Model Civil Jury Instructions, 3.06
Election of Foreperson; Duty to Deliberate; Communications with Court; Cautionary;
Unanimous Verdict; Verdict Form
Submitted by Plaintiff